

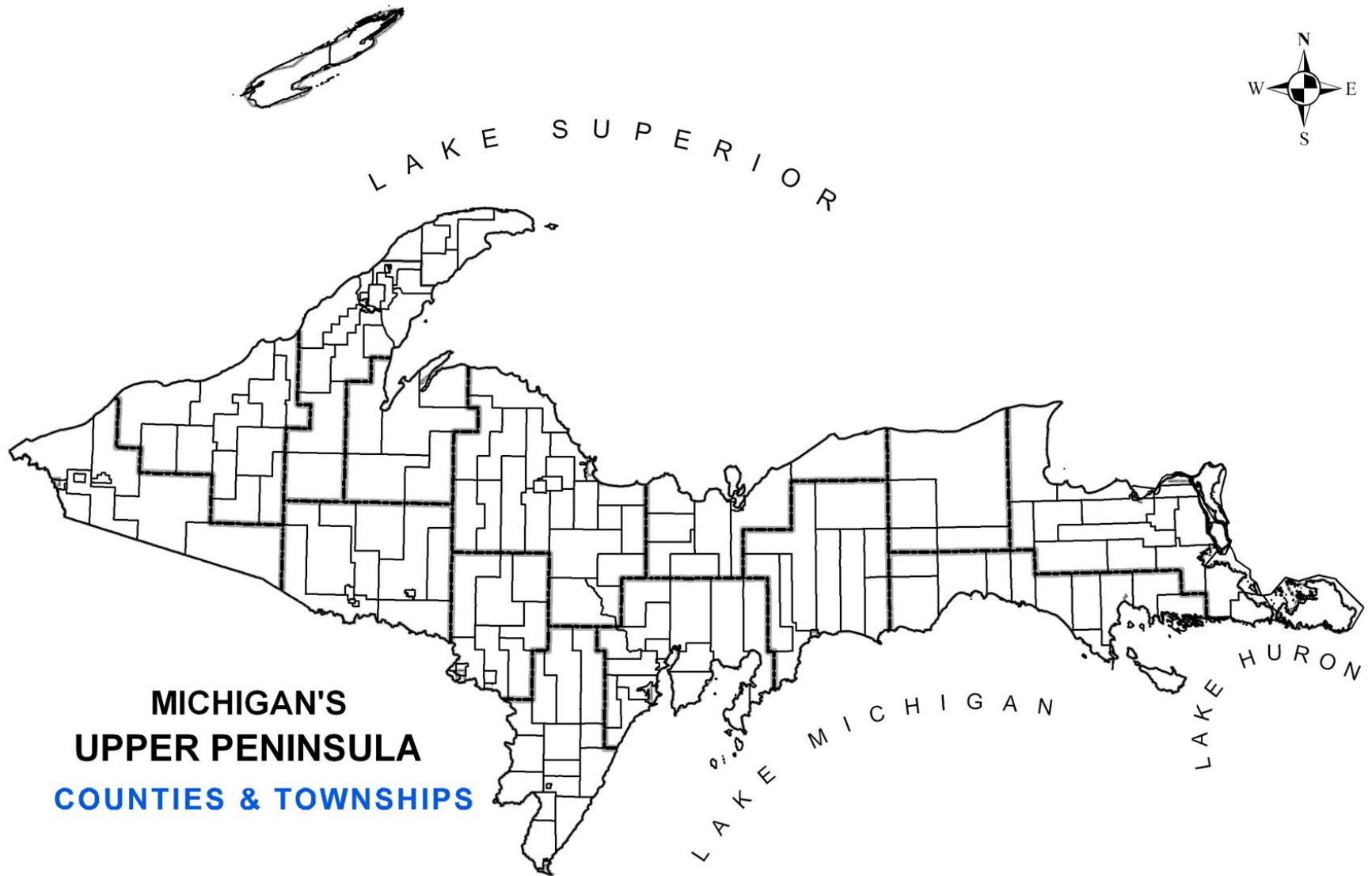
**Community Action for a
Renewed Environment**

**EPA Community
Involvement Conference**

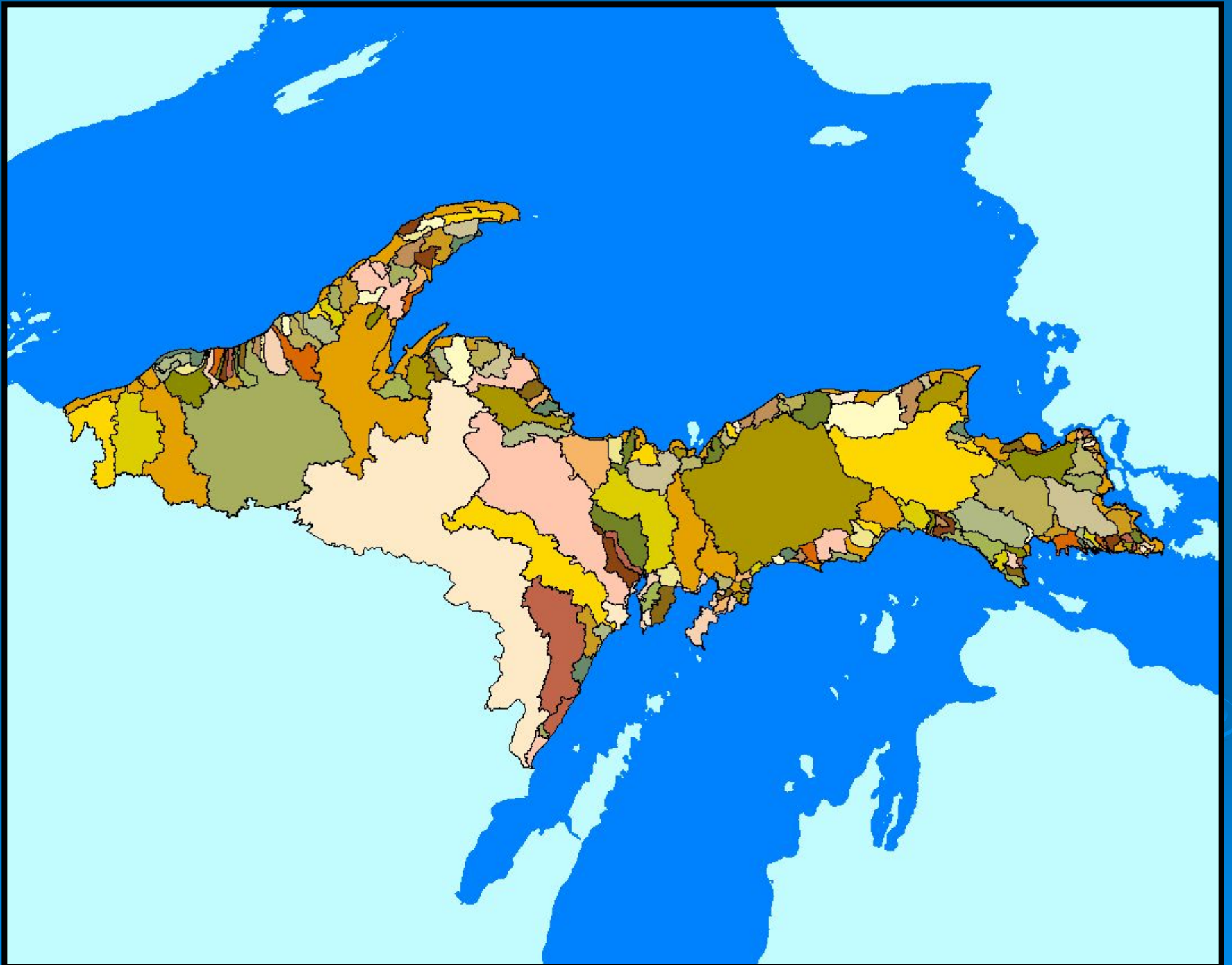
June 19, 2007

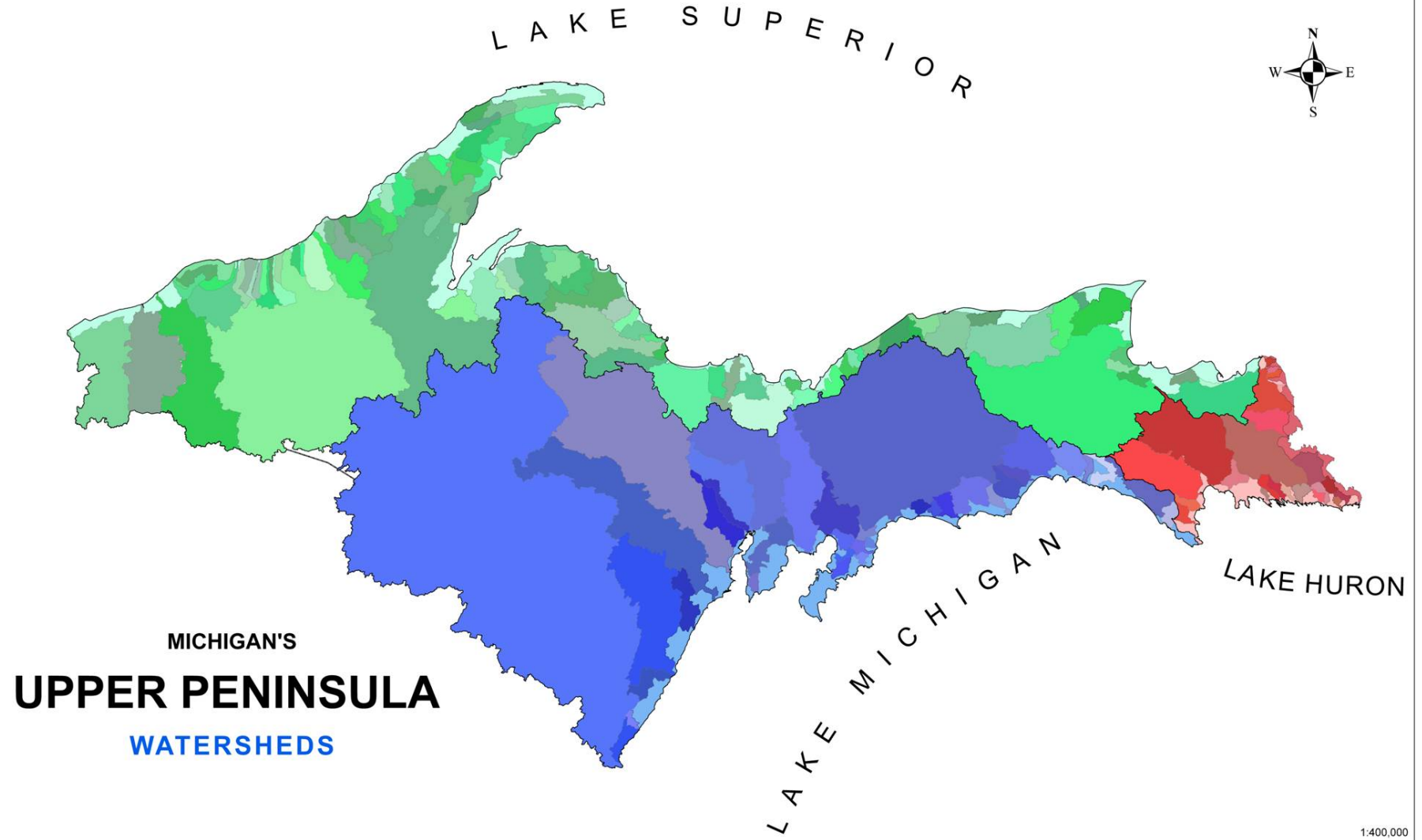
Natasha Koss

**SUPERIOR
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**MICHIGAN'S
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COUNTIES & TOWNSHIPS





MICHIGAN'S
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WATERSHEDS

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L A K E M I C H I G A N

L A K E H U R O N

1:400,000

Earth Keepers



Earth Keepers 2004

AN EARTH KEEPER COVENANT

CARING FOR CREATION

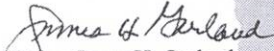
"And God saw all that was made and behold, it was very good."

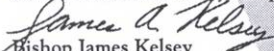
—Genesis 1:30

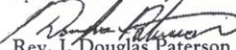
In conviction of the Goodness of Creation, the undersigned spiritual leaders and Bishops of our faith communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula make a commitment to the stewardship and protection of the natural environment in the Great Lakes Basin. Because of our concern for the waterways, the forests, the fish and the wildlife

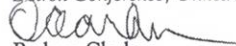
we pledge the following on this seventeenth day of July, two thousand and four:

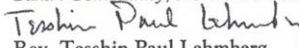
- (1) To support The Cedar Tree Institute, The Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership and The Nature Conservancy in providing resources for our local faith communities, educating us about environmental issues, inviting us into a more creative, responsible stewardship of creation.
- (2) To initiate annual *clean sweeps* in collaboration with state and federal programs, encouraging our spiritual communities to collect and dispose of toxic chemicals that threaten our neighborhoods, towns and villages.
- (3) To work alongside The Lake Superior Binational Forum, a citizen advisory body for the Canadian and United States governments, to coordinate a network—a spiritual shield—of faith communities committed to protecting air and water quality in the Great Lakes Basin.
- (4) To encourage partnerships of our faith communities with American Indian tribes and agencies in Northern Michigan, addressing issues of environmental concern, sharing a common vision for future protection of the Earth's natural resources.



Bishop James H. Garland
Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette

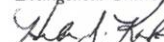

Bishop James Kelsey
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

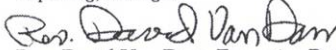

Rev. J. Douglas Paterson
Superintendent, Marquette District
Detroit Conference, United Methodist Church

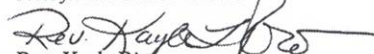

Rodney Clarken
Baha'i Community, Northern Michigan


Rev. Tesshin Paul Lehmberg
Lake Superior Zendo (Zen Buddhist)
Marquette, Michigan


Bishop Tom Skrenes
Northern Great Lake Synod
Evangelical Church in America


Helen Kahn, President
Temple Beth Shalom
Ishpeming, Michigan


Rev. David Van Dam, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Mackinac
Presbyterian Church-U.S.A.


Rev. Kayle Rige
Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Marquette, Michigan

For further information contact:

Any of the above signers • The Cedar Tree Institute (906)228-5494 • Rev. Charlie West (906)225-0616 or mqtcchaz@earthlink.net

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Earth Keepers - 2005



Earth Keepers - 2005



Earth Keepers - 2005





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Significant Activities Report: April 2005

Earth Keeper Clean Sweep a Tremendous Success

A Clean Sweep (hazardous waste collection) event in Michigan's Upper Peninsula under the Earth Keeper initiative was an unprecedented success. A total of 45.7 tons of toxic materials were collected in the event held on Earth Day, April 23rd in the parking lots of 25 Upper Peninsula churches, temples, and other houses of worship. Wastes collected included: pesticides, herbicides, mercury (including over 40 pounds of raw mercury), oil-based paints and thinners, car batteries, anti-freeze and harsh cleaners. The hazardous wastes were distributed to the Delta County and Marquette County hazardous waste processing facilities with 25.5 tons going to Delta County and 20.2 tons to Marquette County. To put the success of the event into perspective: the Delta County facility received more hazardous waste in the Earth Keeper event than in the last seven years, and the Marquette facility received more than it does in an entire year!

Earth Keeper is an Upper Michigan environmental initiative begun in 2004 when representatives of nine different faiths (Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Buddhist, Jewish, Unitarian, B'hai and Episcopal) signed the Earth Keeper Covenant pledging their commitment to work in partnership with Tribes, government, and citizen organizations for the stewardship and protection of the natural environment of the Great Lakes Basin. Annual clean sweep events are among the commitments made in the Covenant.

The Clean Sweep project was funded in part by USEPA, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership and the Cedar Tree Institute coordinated the project.

The Clean Sweep project responded to a huge unmet need in the Upper Peninsula since only two of the 15 counties have hazardous waste processing facilities. The project's success was due in large part to the publicity given the event by the Earth Keeper faith network which included approximately two-thirds of the Upper Peninsula's total population represented in over 125 congregations/churches and over 50 communities.



Upper Peninsula Clean Sweep collection site at Iron Mountain, Michigan City Hall (Photo courtesy of Wil Shampo)

In This Issue:

- [Earth Keeper Clean Sweep a Tremendous Success](#)
- [R/V Lake Guardian Sets Sail](#)
- [Great Lakes Collaborative Efforts Highlighted](#)
- [Ottawa River Studies Planning](#)
- [New Legacy Act Projects Proposed](#)
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Contact: [Elizabeth LaPlante](#), U.S. EPA - Region 5 (312) 353-2694
or [Carl Lindquist](#), Director, Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership
(906) 226-9460

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF TRIBUTE

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
hereby honor

Project Clean Sweep

Whereas, On July 17, 2004, the Earth Keeper Covenant was signed by nine denominational leaders; and,

Whereas, This unique and unprecedented coalition has partnered with the Cedar Tree Institute to work together as stewards of our environmental heritage; and,

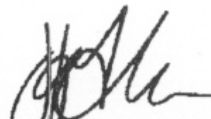
Whereas, One pledge of the nine denominations was to initiate a sweep of household hazardous waste in April 2005; and,

Whereas, Approximately 118 parishes are involved in this remarkable project taking place April 23, 2005; and,

Whereas, This project will involve citizens representing 50 communities in the Upper Peninsula and aims to collect between 200 and 300 tons of toxins; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby offer this Certificate of Tribute to those participating in Project Clean Sweep as they work to maintain the health of our environment, as well as our citizens. I offer my best wishes for success and encourage residents of the Upper Peninsula to participate in the wonderful efforts of this coalition.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

Earth Keepers - 2006



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320 tons... over 1.7 tons per minute



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U.P. Earth Day event collects 300 tons of electronics

Associated Press
Published April 22, 2006, 5:47 PM CDT

MARQUETTE, Mich. — A fledgling coalition of faith-based organizations collected more than 300 tons of discarded electronic equipment throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Saturday.

An estimated 10,000 people brought old and broken computers, televisions, cell phones and other so-called e-waste to 27 collection sites during the second annual Earth Keeper Clean Sweep.

A private contractor approved by federal and state agencies will recycle or refurbish the e-waste; none of it will be dumped in landfills.

Organizers expected to collect no more than 100 tons of unwanted electronics. But more than 350 volunteers collected three times as much e-waste in just three hours, said organizer Carl Lindquist, director of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership.

The Earth Keeper coalition includes Lindquist's organization, more than 120 churches and temples representing nine faith communities with 130,000 members, the nonprofit Cedar Tree Institute and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Last year, Earth Keeper sponsored a peninsula-wide cleanup that netted 46 tons of household hazardous waste in a single day.

Besides the 27 drop-off sites throughout the 340-mile-wide Upper Peninsula, Earth Keeper also maintained a half-dozen unofficial sites including Mackinac Island, where motorized vehicles are banned. Horse-drawn carts carried e-waste from hotels and businesses on the resort island to a ferry, which took it to an official site on the mainland near St. Ignace.

"This morning when the sun rose — the faith communities responded with a song and a prayer," said the Rev. John Magnuson, founder and director of the Cedar Tree Institute and a co-founder of the Earth Keeper coalition.

"It was a first act of a drama that is unfolding that will I believe change relationship of the faith communities to the environment for generations to come," said Magnuson, the Lutheran campus pastor at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

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EPA Significant Activities

Earthkeepers E-Waste Collection a Whopping Success [▲]Top



Earthkeeper e-waste collection at Trinity Episcopal Church in Houghton, Michigan (photo courtesy of Don Watson)

The Earthkeepers, a faith-based organization that received a GLNPO grant of \$55,000 to conduct a hazardous waste "clean sweep" (collection event) in the Michigan's Upper Peninsula, made national news when it held its second annual event. The group, which is comprised of 120 churches and temples, representing 9 denominations, conducted an Earth Day "Clean Sweep" event, focused on electronic waste (e-waste) such as computers, monitors, televisions and cell phones, some of which contain hazardous materials such as mercury and lead. The partnership mobilized over 300 volunteers aged from 9 to 90 to operate a network of 27 drop off sites across the Upper Peninsula and assembled a fleet of semi-trucks to haul away the collected items. Despite intermittent showers and temperatures only in the 40's, an estimated 10,000 Upper Peninsula residents turned out for the event and brought a total of over 320 tons of e-waste in 3 hours. In order to be environmentally benign as possible, all of the e-waste collected will be recycled or refurbished and redeployed, so that it doesn't end up in landfills.

Contact: [Elizabeth LaPlante](mailto:laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov) (laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov)
U.S. EPA - Region 5 (312) 353-2694



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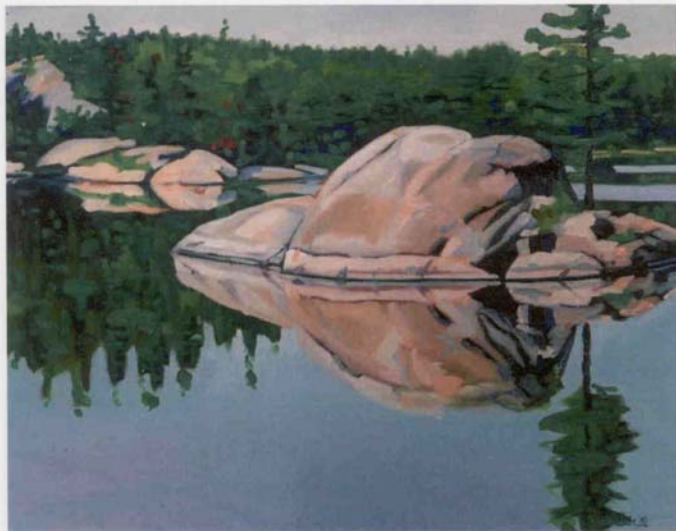
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The SOLEC 2006 Steering Committee recognizes

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The Canadian and United States Consuls General and the SOLEC Steering Committee, extend sincerest congratulations to your organization for the accomplishments and notable successes in conservation, pollution prevention, and restoration activities. Such efforts also serve to inspire and encourage others to assume responsibility and to take an active role in the improvement of our Great Lakes ecosystem.

Georges Rioux
Canadian Consul General

John Nay
U.S. Consul General



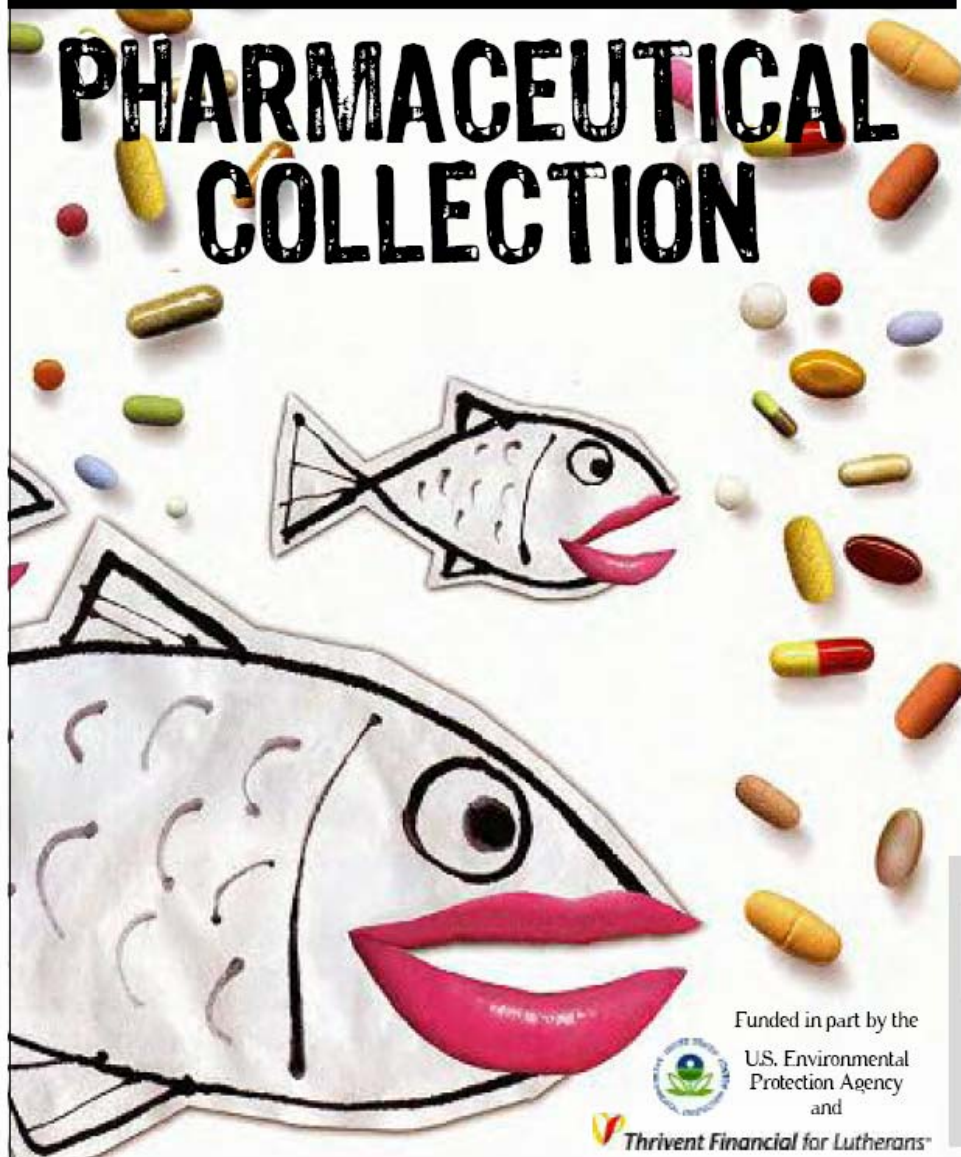
Pharmaceuticals In Our Waters

- In a recent nationwide study USGS found a range of pharmaceuticals in 80% of the streams sampled.
- Studies have found antibiotics, anti-depressants, veterinary drugs and hormones in some tap water.
- Linked to behavioral and sexual mutations in fish, birds and amphibians.
- These “endocrine disruptors” are also linked to hormonal problems in humans, increased rates of some cancers and neurological problems in children.
- In the past six decades US manufacturers have released an estimated 100,000 synthetic compounds into the environment.
- Prescription drug sales rose by an annual average of 11% between 2000 and 2005. Americans now fill more than three billion prescriptions per year.
- The US accounts for over half of the pharmaceutical use in the world.



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Saturday, April 21, 2007

9:00am - 12:00 noon

at participating Earth Keeper churches
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Earth Keeper Pharmaceutical Take-Back Saturday, April 21

Free and Open to the public



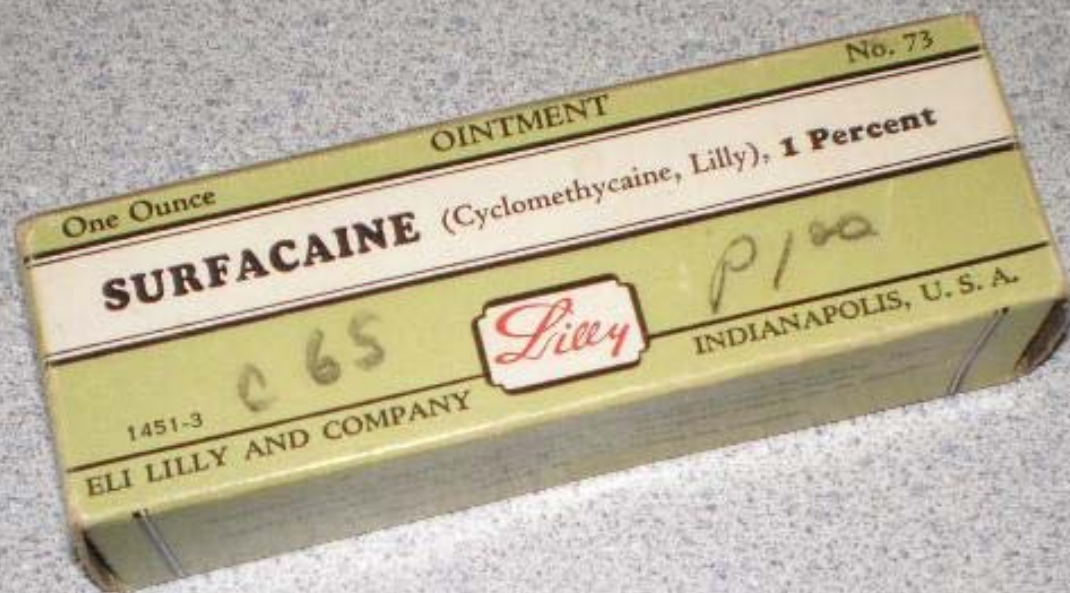
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Welcome

 **EARTH KEEPING** 
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Earth Day collection brings in ton of unwanted drugs

WOOD-TV

MARQUETTE, Mich. -- People turned in more than a ton of unwanted pills, powders and liquid medicines _ including an estimated \$500,000 worth of narcotics _ during an Earth Day collection across the Upper Peninsula, organizers said Wednesday.

The annual Earth Keeper Clean Sweep, sponsored by a coalition of faith-based and environmental groups, gives people a place to bring hazardous household wastes for disposal.

The focus this year was on unused drugs, which scientists say are making their way into the nation's waters after being flushed down toilets or drains.

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Published: Thursday, April 26, 2007

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Clean Sweep collects ton of waste



Above, Earth Keeper volunteers worked to fill these barrels with expired prescription and over-the-counter medications and personal care products at the 2007 Pharmaceutical Clean Sweep Saturday. About 2,000 people across the peninsula turned in more than a ton of unwanted medicines. (Journal photo by Kristen Kohrt)

MARQUETTE (AP) — People turned in more than a ton of unwanted pills, powders and liquid medicines — including an estimated \$500,000 worth of narcotics — during an Earth Day collection across the Upper Peninsula, organizers said Wednesday.

The annual Earth Keepers Clean Sweep, sponsored by a coalition of faith-based and environmental groups, gives people a place to bring hazardous household wastes for disposal.

The focus this year was on unused drugs, which scientists say are making their way into the nation's waters after being flushed down toilets or drains.

Dropoff stations were open Saturday at 19 church parking lots — at least one in each of the peninsula's 15 counties.



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Group fuses faith, ecology for cleaner U.P.

MARQUETTE (AP) — Rummaging through her bathroom cabinet recently, Kelly Mathews found a bottle of sinus medicine a doctor had prescribed — 18 years ago.

She didn't want to flush it down the toilet, aware of growing concern that unused drugs may be polluting waterways. Instead, this Saturday she'll take it to an unlikely disposal site: a church parking lot.

For the third consecutive year, a coalition of religious and environmental groups is conducting an Earth Day hazardous waste cleanup across the Upper Peninsula.

The Earth Keeper Clean Sweep began in 2005, when people dropped off 45 tons of household wastes such as paints, poisons and vehicle batteries. Last year, the program took in 320 tons of electronic waste for recycling — computers, cell phones, televisions, stereos — and drew plaudits from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The focus this year is on castoff medicines. Nineteen collection sites will be open at churches — at least one in each of the peninsula's 15 counties.

The drugs will be trucked to an EPA-licensed incinerator near St. Louis, Mo. Police and pharmacists will be stationed at every location to monitor handling of controlled substances such as narcotic painkillers, said Carl Lindquist, executive director of the Superior Watershed Partnership, a nonprofit group co-sponsoring the collection.

Mathews, 36, who lives in the village of Big Bay near Lake Superior, said she came across the long-forgotten sinus drug while cleaning out her medicine cabinet.

"You can find some pretty creepy stuff," she said. "You don't throw it away because you don't know what to do with it."

The collection will give U.P. residents a chance to get rid of old medicines and teach how to handle them in the future.

It's also part of a broader effort to convince people that caring for nature is a spiritual and moral duty, said the Rev. Jon Magnuson, a Lutheran



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AP Photo

Detroit area Sunni and Shiite leaders signed the "Intra-Faith Code of Honor," designed to decrease the likelihood of sectarian tensions from occurring in the U.S.

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Drugs seep into drinking water

Saturday, April 14, 2007

By Ken Kolker
The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Trace amounts of pharmaceuticals, including birth-control hormones and anti-seizure drugs, are leaving the city's wastewater treatment plant for the Grand River, with some showing up in Lake Michigan and in the city's drinking water, according to a newly released government study.

Scientists believe the drugs are too diluted to harm humans, though they acknowledge no one knows the threat posed by ingesting tiny amounts of drugs in water over a lifetime.

The immediate concern, scientists say, is the impact on wildlife, mostly fish.

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"If I were in Grand Rapids, I would still drink the water," said state Department of Environmental Quality toxicologist Amy Perbeck.

Perbeck is most concerned about the effect of birth-control hormones on fish. In some parts of the country, scientists have found male fish with female ovarian tissues.

"The fish are constantly exposed to hormones," Perbeck said.



May/June 2007
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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY: Protecting Lake Superior: Religious Leaders, Pharmacists and Volunteers Join Forces to Keep Drugs out of the Water The Third Annual Michigan Earth Keeper Clean Sweep

By Greg Peterson

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In an ongoing effort to protect our drinking water and the national jewel Lake Superior, thousands of northern Michigan residents are expected to turn in old and unwanted pharmaceuticals on Earth Day 2007 as a volunteer environmental army opens free collection sites for the third year in a row. Prescription medication and over-the-counter medicines will be collected across a 400-mile area at about two dozen free drop-off sites across Northern Michigan during the third annual Earth Keeper Clean Sweep on Earth Day 2007. Federal officials say the cutting-edge clean sweep is an excellent example of productive ways to protect Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes.

"The Earth Keeper Pharmaceutical Collection event is an excellent opportunity to prevent the introduction of these chemicals into Lake Superior and other water bodies," says Elizabeth LaPlante, senior manager for the EPA Great Lakes National Programs Office in Chicago.

The 2007 Pharmaceutical Clean Sweep is targeting out-of-date and unwanted medications of all kinds, according to Carl Lindquist, executive director of the Superior Watershed Partnership. "By addressing the issue of pharmaceuticals in our waters the Earth Keepers are once again at the forefront nationally," says Lindquist, co-organizer of the Earth Keeper clean sweeps.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lindquist say the reason for the clean sweep targeting medicines is that trace amounts of pharmaceuticals are turning up in America's drinking water and the Great Lakes, because most treatment plants are not designed to filter out these medications. When pills or liquid medicines are poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet they remain diluted in the water supply after treatment and these trace amounts are suspected of causing a range of health problems, according to the EPA.

"As leftover and waste pharmaceuticals get flushed down drains, research is showing that they are increasingly being detected in our lakes and rivers at levels that could be causing harm to the environment and ecosystem," LaPlante says. "Specifically, reproductive and development problems in aquatic species, hormonal disruption and antibiotic resistance are some concerns associated with pharmaceuticals in our wastewater."

Lindquist says that recent national studies have documented that over 80 percent of the rivers sampled "tested positive for a range of pharmaceuticals including antibiotics, birth control hormones, antidepressants, veterinary drugs and other medications." He says some urban centers have even detected "traces of pharmaceuticals in their tap water."

Pharmaceuticals in some rivers have also been linked to behavioral and sexual mutations in species of fish, amphibians and birds, according to EPA studies. Pharmaceutical compounds known as endocrine disruptors have even been linked to neurological problems in children and increased incidence of some cancers, according to EPA studies.

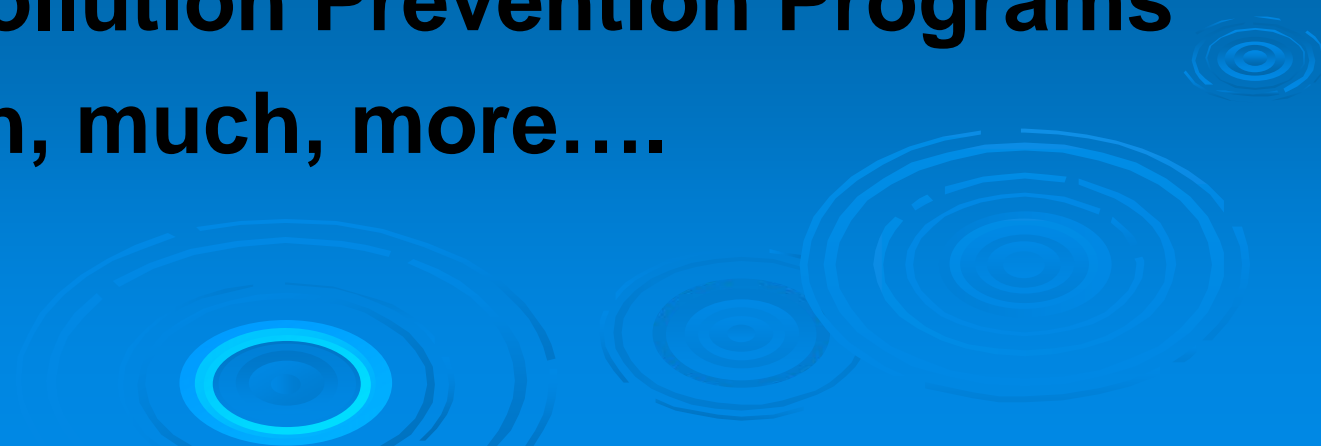


Trace amounts of pharmaceuticals are turning up in America's drinking water and the Great Lakes.

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Earth Keeper Culture

- **New Citizen Watershed Councils Forming**
- **NMU Student Earth Keepers**
- **Energy Conservation Programs**
- **Local Stream Clean-Up Events**
- **Annual Pollution Prevention Programs**
- **And much, much, more....**







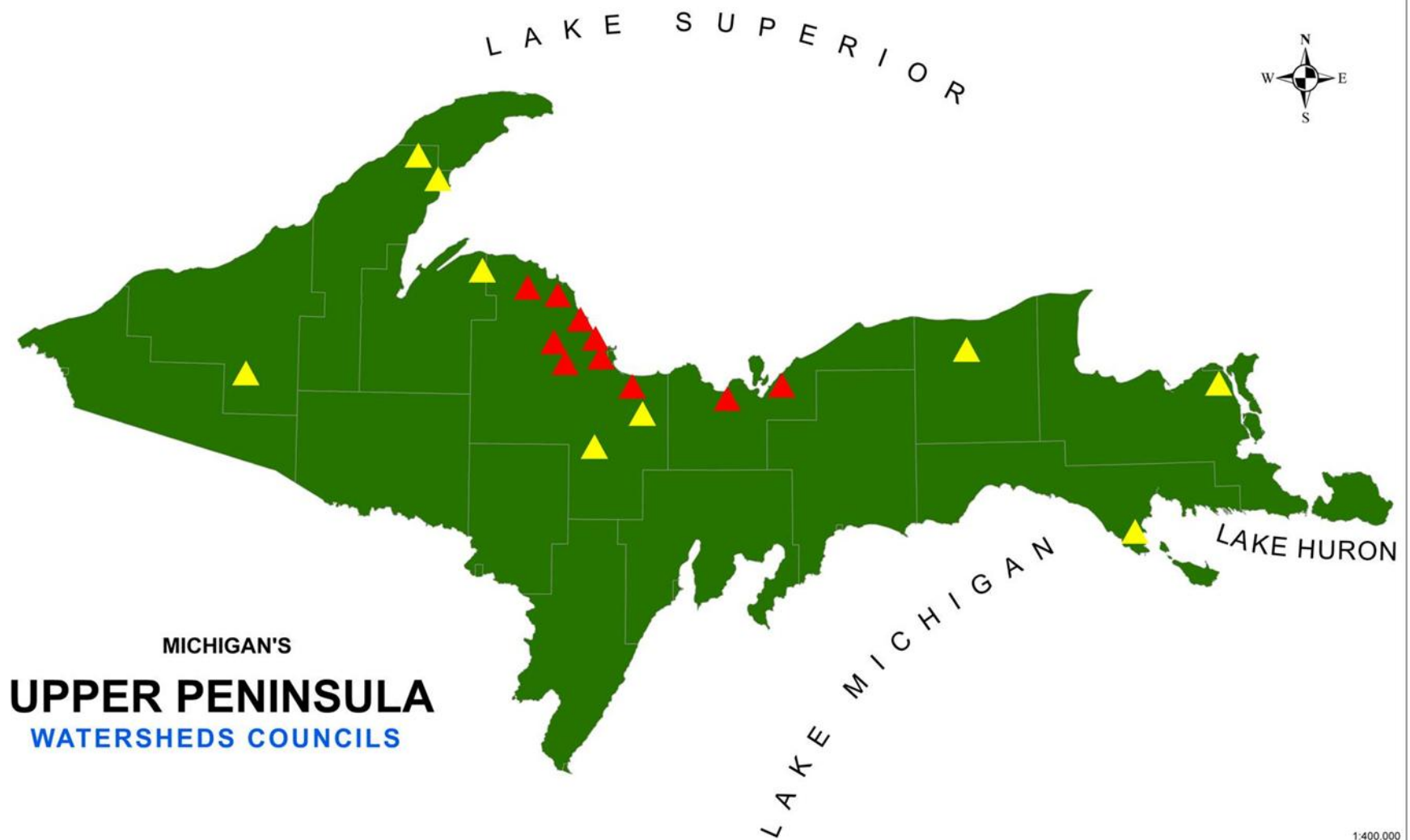


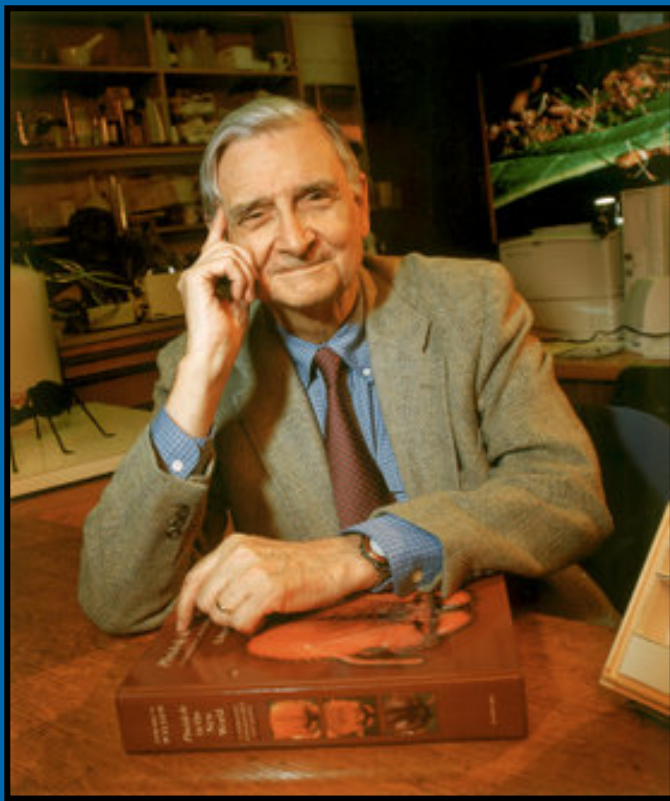


Mercury Reduction Programs and Monitoring







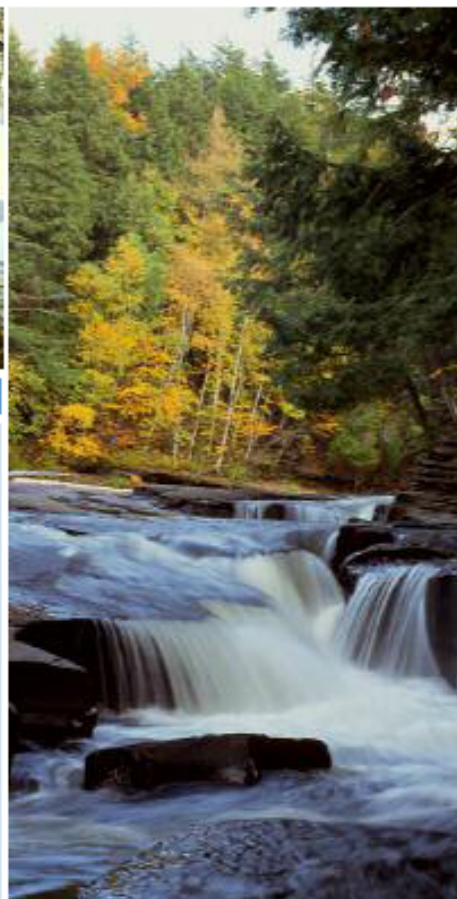


“Lets recognize that science and religion are the two most powerful forces in the world...I’m calling on the religious community to join the scientists and environmentalists to save the creation...to save the worlds biodiversity”

~ E.O. Wilson

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